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PAGE 01 STATE 237358

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237358

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER FROM KARINSHAK

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ARAB SUMMIT
CONFERENCE & ADDIS ABABA DATED 25 OCTOBER 1974:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF MO

SUBJ: ARAB SUMMIT: OCTOBER 24 PROCEEDINGS

1. SUMMARY: OCT 24 ARAB FON MINS' DELIBERATIONS WERE AGAIN DOMINATED BY PLO-JORDAN SPLIT AND CLIMAXED BY PLO SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ARAB BROTHERS HAD MET PALESTINIAN DEMANDS WITH TOTAL SILENCE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PLO WALKOUT WAS POSSIBILITY AND THAT ARAFAT NOW STUDYING MATTER. EGYPTIAN FON MIN FORMED SIX-MEMBER "CONCILIATION" COMMITTEE OCT 24 WHICH REPORTEDLY CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS MORNING OCT 25. WHILE PLO SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF GRANDSTAND PLAY, IT HAS GENERATED MARKED PESSIMISM, AND GULF BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN CLEARLY REMAINS WIDE. OTHER ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE INCLUDE REPORTED TOUGH SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD FUTURE PEACE EFFORTS, RENEWED CALL FOR ARAB MILITARY COMMAND, AND AIRING OF IRAQ-IRAN DISPUTE. HEADS OF STATE CONTINUE ARRIVING OCT 25, BUT AL-BAKR AND QADHAFI REPORTEDLY WILL NOT ATTEND.

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PAGE 02 STATE 237358

SECURITY MEASURES CONTINUE VERY TIGHT AND PRESS ACCESS

EXTREMELY LIMITED. END SUMMARY.

2. PLO-JORDAN DIFFERENCES. PLO-JORDANIAN DIFFERENCES CONTINUED TO DOMINATE FON MINS' DELIBERATIONS OCT 24, AND DAY CULMINATED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT, AT 2200 LOCAL, BY PLO PRESS SPOKESMAN SAID KAMAL THAT ARAB BROTHERS HAD MET PALESTINIAN DEMANDS WITH TOTAL SILENCE. KAMAL, WHOM ONE CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBED AS BEING IN AGITATED STATE, SAID IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD LEAVE CONFERENCE AND THAT MATTER BEING REFERRED TO ARAFAT FOR DECISION. KAMAL ALSO REPORTEDLY CITED SOME SPECIFIC PALESTINIAN DEMANDS AS: (A) RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL PALESTINIANS IN EVERY INCH OF LIBERATED TERRITORY; (B) INDEPENDENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY OVER ALL LIBERATED PALESTINE AND CREATION OF NATIONAL POLITICAL ENTITY IN LIBERATED PALESTINE; AND (C) ACTIVE SOLIDARITY ON PART OF ALL FRONTLINE ARAB STATES VIS-A-VIS PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

3. IN EFFORT TO PURSUE PLO-JORDANIAN COMPROMISE, EGYPTIAN FON MIN FAHMY EVENING OCT 24 GATHERED REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND PLO, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS. THIS SPECIAL "COORDINATION COMMITTEE" PRODUCED WORKING DOCUMENT ON THIS ISSUE WHICH SAID TO HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY PALESTINIANS. ACCORDING TO ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SECY GEN NOWFAL, DOCUMENT WAS STUDIED BY FON MINS, WHO AT SAME TIME APPROVED NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT UNGA IN EARLY NOVEMBER. EGYPTIAN SOURCE TOLD A CORRESPONDENT THAT FAHMY, WHEN CONFRONTED BY A PLO REP, HAD SAID THAT EGYPTIANS SUPPORT THREE PLO DEMANDS CITED IN PARA 2, BUT AFTER JORDANIAN-PLO RECONCILIATION ACHIEVED.

4. CORDIALITY BETWEEN PLO AND JORDANIAN REPRESENTATIVES AT FON MIN LARAKI'S LUNCH FOR DELEGATIONS OCT 23, WHICH WAS PLAYED UP BY SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS (RABAT 5197), WAS NOT SO CLEARCUT AS GOM'S OFFICIAL LINE WOULD HAVE IT APPEAR, MOROCCAN JOURNALIST COVERING CONFERENCE TELLS US. INSTEAD, SOURCE CLAIMS, PLO-JORDANIAN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 237358

AT TIMES HEATED AND VITUPERATIVE.

5. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS UNDERLINES THAT EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE BY DELEGATIONS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PALESTINIAN REQUIREMENTS ON REAFFIRMATION OF ALGIERS SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS ON SOLE REPRESENTATION, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, CAUSING JORDANIANS TO FEEL THEMSELVES ABANDONED BY ARAB WORLD. "OF COURSE IT IS NOT EASY TO RECONCILE

THESE TWO POINTS OF VIEW," PRESS COMMENTS. PRESS CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROBABILITY THAT FON MINS' CONFERENCE CAN COME UP WITH ANY DEFINITE DECISIONS ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION AND THAT DELEGATIONS ARE PRETTY MUCH IN AGREEMENT TO LEAVE THIS "VERY ARDUOUS TASK" TO CHIEFS OF STATE.

6. SYRIAN POSITION: ALTHOUGH INFORMATION SCARCE, THERE ARE FRAGMENTARY INDICATIONS THAT SYRIAN POSITION WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IS THOUGH. ACCORDING TO ISTIQLAL, ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY AL ALAM, WHICH TENDS TO TAKE DIM VIEW OF PEACE PROSPECTS, A SYRIAN WORKING PAPER PRESENTED TO EIGHT-NATION WORKING COMMITTEE AND DEALING WITH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF RAMADAN WAR REFLECTS VIEW THAT RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES IS REAL POSSIBILITY. AL ALAM ITEM DOES NOT BECOME MORE SPECIFIC ON LATTER POINT, BUT WE HAVE ALSO HEARD FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE THAT SYRIANS HAVE BEEN TAKING MILITANT LINE. KHADDAM'S STATEMENT OF OCT 23 (RABAT 5197) THAT HE IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT QUICK REALIZATION OF ARAB ASPIRATIONS FITS IN WITH SUCH AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SYRIAN MOOD.

7. UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND: SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN WILL PRESENT PROPOSAL, PRESUMABLE FOR INCLUSION IN SUMMIT AGENDA, THAT UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND BE CREATED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SYRIANS ALSO SUPPORTED CALL FOR SUCH A COMMAND IN WORKING DOCUMENT MENTIONED IN PARA 6. ABOVE.

8. IRAN-IRAQ AND SAHARA: IRAQI DELEGATION, ACCORDING IRANIAN AMBASSADOR, PRESENTED CLOSELY HELD PAPER ON "IRAQ-IRANIAN DISPUTE." IRANIAN HAD HEARD PAPER CAUSED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 STATE 237358

CONSIDERABLE STIR AND SOME IMPATIENCE WITH IRAQ ON PART OF OTHER ARABS. HE HAD SEEN PAPER AND WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BUT NOT ALARMED, HE SAID. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT MAURITANIA EXPECTED TO MAKE STATEMENT ON "MOROCCAN SAHARA."

9. HEAD OF STATE ATTENDANCE: ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, IRAQ TO BE REPRESENTED AT SUMMIT BY SADDAM HUSSEIN, VICE PRESIDENT OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, RATHER THAN BY AL-BAKR. WE UNDERSTAND LIBYA'S DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY ITS AMBASSADOR TO PARIS. OF HEADS OF STATES OR REPS EXPECTED HERE FOR SUMMIT ONLY THREE (MAURITANIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND OMAN) WERE REPORTED ON HAND MORNING OCT 25. PRESS REPORTS FOUR MORE (TUNISIA, BAHRAIN, EGYPT AND QATAR), PLUS GUEST STAR IDI AMIN DADA, DUE ARRIVE SOMETIME TODAY.

10. SECURITY MEASURES: MEANWHILE, SECURITY MEASURES CONTINUE TIGHTER, IN OLD HANDS' RECOLLECTION, THAN AT ANY PREVIOUS GATHERING OF THIS NATURE IN RABAT. MOROCCAN JOURNALIST REPRESENTING SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA TOLD US HE HAD HAD PASSES TO CONFERENCE SITE CANCELLED AND REISSUED SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY BECAUSE OF OFFICIAL FEARS THAT DOCUMENTATION WOULD BE COUNTERFEITED. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN LESS NEWS GIVEN TO JOURNALISTS THIS TIME THAN IN HIS EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH CONFERENCES OVER PAST DECADE. THIS LATTER REMARK SQUARES WITH COMMENTS WE HAVE HAD FROM OTHER PRESS SOURCES.

11. COMMENT: SAID KAMAL'S PRONOUNCEMENTS MAY WELL REPRESENT SOMETHING OF GRANDSTAND PLAY, BUT THEY ARE HAVING MARKED IMPACT. A MOOD OF HEAVY PESSIMISM HAS DEVELOPED AS TO ULTIMATE PROSPECTS FOR PLO-JORDANIAN RECONCILIATION, AND SOME OBSERVERS FEEL RECONCILIATION EFFORTS WERE IN FACT ON VERGE OF BEING BROKEN OFF LATE OCT 24. THESE EFFORTS NEVERTHELESS RESUMED MORNING OCTOBER 25, WITH NO PROGRESS YET APPARENT.
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